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*"Not my job to be a moral judge
Of humanity," says Interarmco chief.*

Are Small Arms Small Potatoes?

By ALAN EMORY

CPYRGHT

BIGGEST MAN in the small arms business today is a 35-year-old Philadelphia main line-born expatriate who can spy on the activities of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace from his apartment high on the Monegasque coast.

But Samuel Cummings only visits Monte Carlo to give visitors a charge, likes simple food, does not drink or smoke. Today, as head of the multimillion-dollar International Armament Corp. and assorted subsidiaries, he heads the world's largest gun-running operation.

He is often referred to as the modern Sir Basil Zaharoff, turn-of-the-century Greek munitions magnate, who reportedly stirred up wars to be able to sell his wares. Zaharoff also resided in Monaco, where the tax situation is easier.

Cummings, however, is still an American citizen. He lost his father, manager of an electrical supply house, when he was eight. His mother went into real estate and financed his schooling.

At Episcopal Academy, young Cummings wore a blazer with the embroidered latin motto

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It is now the motto of Interarmco.

CUMMINGS served in the army infantry in the U. S., then entered George Washington University receiving a bachelor of arts degree. He started traveling abroad and, in 1948, stumbled on a bonanza.

At Falaise, France, he saw rifles and machine guns clutched by skeleton hands, but he lacked the money to buy and transport them. When he returned he got in touch with the Western Arms Corp. of Los Angeles,

but then went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency identifying North Korean weapons from photographs.

Western arms hired him from CIA for \$5,600 a year, plus commissions, and, in two years, Cummings had banked \$25,000. With that he founded Interarmco.

One of his first deals was the purchase of 7,000 small arms from Panama. Soon after he bought jet fighters for Trujillo from Sweder, and then he traded Guatemala \$250,000 in military field equipment for small arms and ammunition.

NOW HE HAS offices and warehouses around the world and owns his own bank in Geneva. He likes to give gold-plated Walther pistols as presents to chiefs of state, such as Chiang Kai-shek and Pres. William Tubman of Liberia.

Cummings has a ten-room apartment in Monaco, adorned with a 1790 mortar, a suit of 16th Century German armor, battle scenes, old sabers and pistols.

He types a lot of his business correspondence himself, dresses informally much of the time and drives a white Ferrari sports car.

He has been married twice, once to a German, now to a Swiss.

CUMMINGS' whole staff is young and his Indonesian agent is the cousin of Pres. Sukarno. His general manager is Peter Beer, 42, a native of Austrian who got his American citizenship "the easy way," as a combat intelligence officer with the paratroops in World War II. Beer calls himself "the old man of the mountain."

Sales manager and head of Hunter's Lodge is Richard Winter, also in his thirties, a former bombardier; Frank Slye is treasurer and Richard Breed, vice president in charge of imports

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and exports, is a direct descendant of Civil War union Gen. George Gordon Meade.

Employees at the Alexandria, Va., warehouses on the Potomac riverfront wear whatever surplus fatigue uniforms are in stock. Recently they shifted from the Afrika Korps to the British Royal Navy.

Because of the willingness to permit publicity about its operation, Interarmco has received a skeptical glance from the State Dept's office of munitions control, which licenses a lot of its international operations.

ONE DEPARTMENT official said it would be gross exaggeration to say Interarmco has any real impact on the aircraft and missile field. Small arms, he declared, are "small potatoes" in today's warfare.

Cummings has no qualms about his dealings with dictators, past and present. He told an interviewer, "they have a sense of order and they pay their bills promptly."

He said Trujillo was "pleasant to deal with," an "an excellent Govt" and "wasn't quite as black as the press painted him."

"I feel no more responsibility for what people do with the weapons I sell them than an automobile manufacturer feels for traffic deaths. I won't turn down any profitable trade I can get a license for. It's not my job to be a moral judge of humanity.

"If you believe dealing in arms is evil, then to be logical you should refuse to pay your income tax because the Govt spends two-thirds of it on weapons."

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